Government of India and each of the State Government and the Administration of Union Territories to constitute a permanent body for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion of castes/communities in the list of OBCs. These Bodies (Commissions) function independently and have their own procedure for examining the requests received for inclusion of castes/sub-castes in the Lists of Backward Classes. In view of this, the subject matter of incursion of castes/communities in the State List of OBCs is dealt with by the State Government concerned.

Proposal for grant-in-aid for new project at Dimapur, Nagaland

†578. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for grant-in-aid for introduction of a new project by the Leema Ayyar Memorial School at Dimapur in Nagaland is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reasons for the proposal remaining pending for the last several years; and

(c) by when Government would take a final decision on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Views of States on creamy layer amongst the Backward Classes

579. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States have given their suggestions and views on the issue of creamy layer amongst the backward classes with regard to the reservation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the stand taken by each State Government on the issue; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrive at a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In pursuance of the Supreme Court's directions, the Govt. of India appointed an Expert Committee in 1993 to specify the basis, applying the relevant and requisite socio-economic criteria to exclude socially advanced persons/sections (creamy layer) from Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Expert Committee submitted its report in March, 1993 specifying the criteria for identification of socially advanced persons amongst OBCs. Based on these recommendations, the Govt. of India issued Office Memorandum on 8th Sept., 1993 specifying the criteria for determining the creamy layer among OBCs. The constitution of a Review Committee is under the consideration of the Govt.

Rehabilitation of destitute old

580. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any immediate plan to rehabilitate the destitute old in the country;

(b) whether Government have any plan to give sufficient pension to the destitute old in the country;

(c) by when Government would have adequate housing for the destitute old in the country; and

(d) the percentage of destitute old who receive pension from State and Government, separately alongwith the figures for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE):(a) The Government is rehabilitating elderly persons through programmes such as Old Age Pension Scheme, Annapurna Scheme and Scheme of setting-up of old age homes and day care centres for the elderly.